

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 DODE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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P R 021545Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9430

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4966

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, EAIR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: FORTHCOMING TURKISH AIR EXERCISES OVER AEGEAN--

COMMENT BY AVEROFF

REF: ATHENS 4810

1. LAST NIGHT WHEN WE WERE HAVING DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF, HE TOLD ME WITH CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION, THAT GREEK AND TURKISH AUTHORITIES HAD REACHED AN AMICABLE UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING THE FORTHCOMING TUKISH AIR EXERCISES OVER THE AEGEAN (REFTEL. AVEROFF SAID THAT IN THE RECENT PAST SUCH EXERCISES CONTAINED THE POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS INCIDENTS AND THAT BOTH SIDES WANTED TO TAKE STEPS TO AVOID SUCH A POSSIBILITY WITH THE CURRENTLY-PLANNED EXERCISES. ACCORDING TO AVEROFF, THE TURKS AHD PROPOSED THAT THEIR AIRCRAFT OBSERVE CERTAIN FLYING PATTERNS AND RESTRICTIONS, AND THE GREEKS HAD READILY ACCEPTED THE TURKISH PROPOSAL IN EVERY WAY SAVE ONE. ON ONE POINT -- NAMELY, HOW CLOSE TURKISH AIRCRAFT WOULD FLY TO GREEK ISLANDS -- THE GREEKS MAKE A COUNTERPROPOSAL THAT
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TURKISH AIRCRAFT REFRAIN FROM COMING CLOSER THAN

TEN MILES. AVEROFF INDICATED THE GREEKS HAD TOLD TURKEY THAT THIS TEN-MILE "SAFETY ZONE" HAD NOTHING WHATEVER TO DO WITH GREEK "TERRITORIAL" WATERS BUT WAS ONLY A PRUDENT PROPOSAL TO PREVENT ANY POSSIBLE INCIDENTS.

2. AVEROFF SAID THAT THE TURKS WERE DELIGHTED WITH THE GREEK READY ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR ORIGINAL PROPOSAL AND "WITH ENTHUSIASM" ACCEPTED THE GREEK COUNTER-SUGGESTION ON THE ONE POINT CONCERNING THE TEN MILE "SAFETY ZONE". AVEROFF SEEMED QUITE PLEASED WITH THIS PARTICULAR EPISODE AND THE SOMEWHAT IMPROVED COOPERATION BETWEEN ANKARA AND ATHENS THAT IT REFLECTED.
KUBISCH

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